

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 have been amended without the addition of any new matter as support for the amendments may be found in the relevant portions of the specification and figures.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-8, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,141,528 (Remschel)

Claims 1-8, and 10-12 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Remschel. For the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection by asserting that Remschel fails to disclose, suggest, or teach at least one element of claim 1 or 11. Further, Claims 7-8, 10, and 12, which depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively, are also patentable based on their dependency and their individually recited elements.

- a. Invention Distinguished

Claims 1 and 11 similarly recite a plurality of operational devices for use by a plurality of students to output operational instructions to a teaching computer to use an interactive learning software program built in the teaching computer. Further, claim 1 recites a portable computer, that may be held by a teacher, for executing an interactive control software program and communicates wirelessly with a teaching computer to selectively accept an operating instruction for an operational device.

- b. References Distinguished

Remschel discloses a language learning system that allows a teacher to use a central teaching unit (personal computer or control panel 30) to execute language learning software to teach students a new language (see FIG. 1). Also, the students each use a student unit 34 including a headset and recorder to listen to a class lesson and record a student answer (see FIG. 1; col. 5, lines 8-15).

Remschel makes no mention of allowing the students to output operational instructions to use an interactive learning software built-in at the teaching computer as recited. Basically, Remschel teaches a one-way teaching environment where the teacher outputs a teaching lesson to the students via the personal computer 30 and students may record answers at the individual student recorders 34 which may be later reviewed by the teacher. In strong contrast, the presently claimed invention recites an interactive teaching environment where the students use an interactive learning software built-in at the teaching computer via output operational instructions from each operational device.

Specifically, Remschel states that "...each student is provided with his or her own student recorder 34 which has attached thereto a respective headset 34a to allow the students to listen to a class lesson and also to provide for the recording of the student answers on cassettes or other recording media..." (See FIG. 1; col. 5, lines 9-15). Thus, Remschel exclusively teaches a one-way learning environment that is not interactive as students solely listen to a class lesson and then record an answer locally as opposed to the students outputting operational instructions to use an interactive learning software built-in at the teaching computer as recited.

Further, regarding claim 1, there is no mention in Remschel of the additional (portable) computer being holdable by the teacher. Particularly, Remschel solely discloses (see FIG. 1) personal, desktop computers 30, 60 for controlling the learning system which are not holdable by the teacher. Disclosing a desktop computer for controlling the learning system is significantly different from a portable computer that is holdable by the teacher as recited.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Remschel does not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention of claims 1-8, and 10-12. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Remschel and U.S. Patent 6,195,687 (Greaves)

a. References Distinguished

Greaves fails to make up for the above-described shortcomings of Remschel as this reference is solely relied on as a teaching of wirelessly communicating between a master computer and a slave computer. Thus, claim 9 is similarly distinguished from this reference since it omits the recited feature of a portable computer that is holdable by a teacher.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Remschel and Greaves, whether considered collectively or individually, do not disclose, suggest or teach the claimed invention of claim 9. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Conclusion

In view of the amended claims and the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that claims 1-12 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0200 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

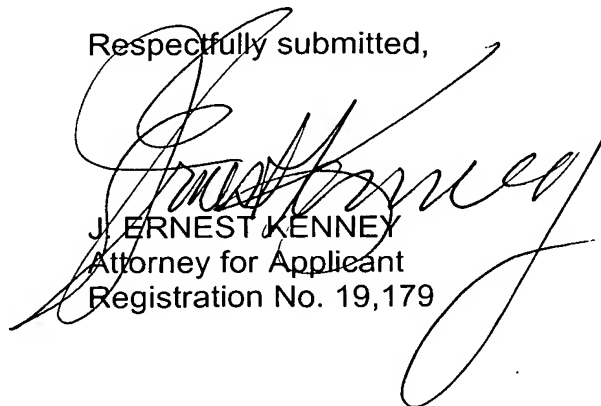
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 683-0500 to discuss the application.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314-1176
Phone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

Date: January 19, 2005

01-18-05 amendment.wpd

Respectfully submitted,



J. ERNEST KENNEY
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 19,179